



By Phil Faroudja

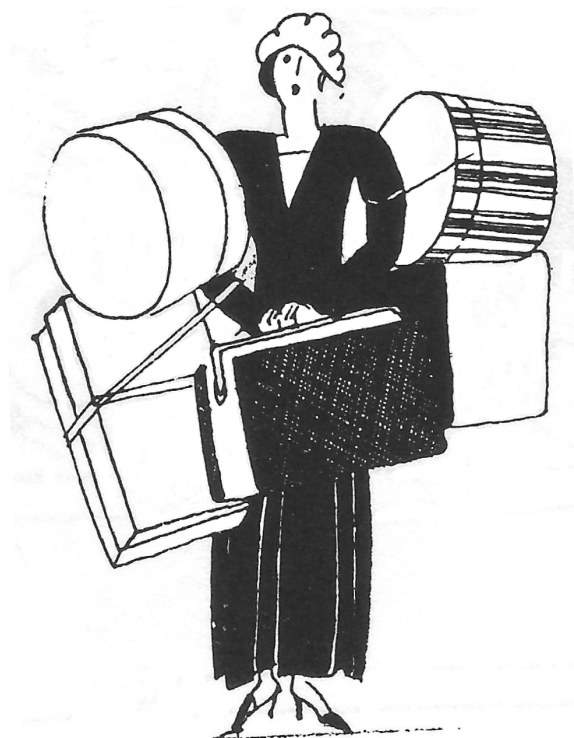
**CHESTNUT BOOMING:** One afternoon a few weeks ago, with some time on my hands, and thankfully no football scheduled, I decided to take a stroll down popular Chestnut Street ... Chestnut's Gap Store has been beautifully remodeled. It's large and expansive, and a section even sells vinyl records. A wall features elegant black and white pictures of stars, primarily of a previous generation: Willie Nelson, Kim Basinger, Anjelica Huston. Any current celebrities? ... Roark a few stores down carries durable gear and apparel of all types when you are ready to hit the road. Its window display spotlights clothes and also knives and saws. Not sure what those are for ... Books Inc. on Chestnut has an amazing selection, and the other day I found some nice Christmas gifts. An employee mentioned the Marina Times no longer publishes, a shame ... The Marina Theater now presents every month or so a live orchestra playing during a silent film. In September there was a Charlie Chaplin & Buster Keaton show, and in February will be a Méliès movie with musical accompaniment. That's nice to have.

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**UPZONING UPHEAVAL:** You may have heard California requires San Francisco to build 82,000 new housing units, whether the city wants to or not. Mayor Lurie has proposed changing the zoned height limits on streets,

called 'upzoning,' and the Board of Supervisors recently voted approval. Neighborhood groups in District 2 fought for amendments to the plan but few were adopted. So, all commercial streets here -- including Union, Chestnut, Fillmore and Lombard -- would have raised height limits, and many residential avenues as well ... This would also apply to other great SF streets such as Clement and Balboa in the Richmond district, and Haight street. If enacted -- and there may be challenges -- this will result in demolished structures and permanently alter the town's look. Haight street will no longer be Haight if half the buildings are modern tall edifices ... Strangely, whole sections of the city, particularly in the southeast, have zero zoning changes under the unbalanced plan ... Supervisor Sherrill was able to get in some amendments, and his office touts that Ghirardelli Square will be untouched. But Ghirardelli is both a state and national landmark which cannot be altered anyway ... More housing news: For the first time in 20 years, the Presidio is considering building 196 [new apartments](#) ... Cow Hollow Association president [Lori Brooke](#) will run for District 2 supervisor. She said she's campaigning to, "...focus on public safety, support local businesses, and work on housing policies that help us grow while preserving our neighborhoods that make this city so special." The election is in June.

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*"This Christmas holiday is just too much. They should move it to February!"*

**DINNER TIME:** Well, it's that time of the year again. GGVNA's annual dinner will be held the end of January, and all are welcome. The restaurant Isa we have chosen is classy and elegant, like your correspondent, and the French food is terrific. There will be interesting guests, so you don't want to miss it. Have a great holiday season, everybody, and Merry Christmas!

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